

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ITF-05 SS-15 SR-02 ORM-01

VO-03 SCA-01 NSC-05 INSE-00 NSCE-00 AID-05 IGA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 460

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1945

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 7083

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF JA VS

SUBJ: GVN DIPLOMATS ASYLUM REQUESTS

REF: A. TOKYO 6383 (AND PREVIOUS)

B. STATE 115830

C. STATE 121541

D. TOKYO 6883

1. SINCE REF C ADDRESSED TO ALL DIP POSTS WE ASSUME
DEPARTMENT'S ATTITUDE AS EXPRESSED IN REF B IS STILL
OPERATIVE FOR HANDFUL OF GVN DIPLOMATS IN JAPAN WHO WISH
TO GO TO US. NEVERTHELESS, IN THIS MESSAGE WE ADDRESS THE
TWO US POLICY REQUIREMENTS AS SPELLED OUT REF C, PARA 2:
A. ASYLUM IN HOST COUNTRY: ALTHOUGH FONOFF CLAIMS GOJ WILL
CONSIDER VIETNAMESE REFUGEE REQUESTS ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS,
FACT IS JAPAN DOES NOT ACCEPT REFUGEES AND OUR LONG
EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH GOJ SHOWS
UNMISTAKABLY THAT GOJ HAS BEEN WILLING TO CONSIDER
REFUGEES ONLY ON VERY EXCEPTIONAL AND RARE BASIS. FONOFF
DIR SOCIAL AFFAIRS DIV OTAKA ACKNOWLEDGED TO EMBASSY
MAY 28 THAT ONLY THOSE GVN DIPLOMATS MARRIED TO JAPANESE
NATIONALS WERE BEING ACTIVELY CONSIDERED FOR ASYLUM
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AND THAT EVEN THEIR CASEW WOULD NOT BE EASY. OFFICIALS

HAVE SUGGESTED TO GVN DIPLOMATS MARRIED TO JAPANESE THAT FITTING INTO JAPANESE SOCIETY, FINDING WORK, ETC. WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT, THEREBY DISCOURAGING EVEN THEIR APPLICATIONS. NONE OF FIVE WHO APPLIED HAS YET BEEN GRANTED ASYLUM. THUS, EMBASSY CERTIFIES THAT FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES GOJ IS UNWILLING TO GRANT ASYLUM TO GVN DIPLOMATS (EXCLUDING PERHAPS, AS STATED, THOSE MARRIED TO JAPANESE).

2. REGARDING REF C, 2, B, WE AND GVN DIPLOMATS HAVE MAINTAINED CLOSE CONTACT WITH UNHCR CORRESPONDENT SAITO. ALTHOUGH SAITO IS VERY WILLING TO HELP TO DATE, HE HAS ONLY BEEN ABLE TO FORWARD NAMES TO UNHCR IN GENEVA AND TO SUPPORT ASYLUM REQUESTS WITH GOJ AND WITH EMBASSIES IN TOKYO. IN DISCUSSION WITH SAITO MAY 28, HE PROVIDED EMBOFF FOLLOWING RUNDOWN: A) GOJ IS ONLY ACTIVELY CONSIDERING APPLICATIONS OF VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATS WITH JAPANESE WIVES. B) AUSTRALIA HAS NOT YET GRANTED ASYLUM TO VIETNAMESE IN JAPAN BUT DECISION IS EXPECTED SOON. C) CANADA HAS NOT YET GRANTED ASYLUM BUT HAS TURNED DECISION ON ELIGIBILITY TO ENTER CANADA OVER TO UNHCR IN GENEVA. D) NZ IS WILLING TO GRANT VISAS LIBERALLY TO GVN DIPLOMATS WHO ARE EITHER MARRIED TO NEW ZEALANDERS OR WHO STUDIED THERE. GVN AMBASSADOR'S CHAUFFEUR IS ONLY GVN EMBASSY EMPLOYEE WITH TIES TO NZ AND HE DEPARTED FOR FRANCE. E) FRANCE HAS GRANTED 3-MONTH TOURIST VISAS LIBERALLY BUT THUS FAR HAS NOT GRANTED VISAS FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT. SAITO INFORMED US THAT HE DOES NOT REGARD TOURIST VISAS TO FRANCE AS EQUIVALENT TO PERMISSION TO ENTER AS REFUGEES. (FORMER GVN EMBOFF NGUYEN ANH TUAN INFORMED US MAY 29 THAT DIPLOMAT TRAN VAN NGO WHO WENT TO FRANCE LAST WEEK WROTE FROM PARIS DISCOURAGING OTHERS FROM GOING TO FRANCE BACAUSE OF BUREAUCRATIC COMPLICATIONS IN FINDING WORK AND BEING GRANTED ASYLUM STATUS. OTHER VIETNAMESE IN TOKYO WHO PLANNED TO GO TO FRANCE ARE VERY DISCOURAGED AS RESULT OF NGO'S LETTER.)

3. AS SPELLED OUT TOKYO 6383 AND INDICATED ABOVE, EMBASSY BELIEVES RESPONSE TO GVN DIPLOMATS IN TOKYO HAS BEEN "INTERNATIONALIZED" AND EFFORTS HAVE BEEN
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MADE TO SECURE REFUGE THROUGH UNHCR OR DIRECTLY WITH OTHER EMBASSIES EXCEPT IN CASES WHERE, BECAUSE OF CLOSE FAMILY TIES OR EDUCATIONAL/TRAINING BACKGROUND IN US, ONLY DESIRED AND REALISTIC CHOICE IS US. WE HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT WE CAN PROCEED WITH GRANTING PAROLE AT LEAST TO THOSE VIETNAMESE HERE WHO HAVE FAMILY OR EDUCATIONAL TIES (AND SPONSORS) IN US.
HODGSON

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